Freedom of Press in Jeopardy in Uttar Pradesh

1169. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lucknow office of Hindi fortnightly magazine "Maya' has been threatened to be ransacked and set on fire by certain responsible persons of country during last week of June, 1996;

(b) to achieve the mission, such responsible persons had visited the office of the magazine in Gopala Apartments at Lucknow on 26th June, 1996;

(c) if such behaviour puts the freedom of Press in jeopardy;

(d) the action taken to provide full security coverage to magazine's office and its officials;

(e) whether any action has been taken against the culprits; and

(f) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Deaths in Accidents on National Highways in Gujarat

1170. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed in road accidents in Gujarat, each year during the last five years;

(b) the number killed in road accidents on National Highways and State Highways;

(c) the number of accidents each year on the National Highway between Ahmedabad and Mumbai; and

(d) the programmes and progress of widening of roads and resurfacing of National Highway in Gujarat for preventing road accidents?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expenses Incurred for Taring Road

1171. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the expenses for taring 1 Km. of road;

(b) the durability of roads after taring is done;

(c) whether there is any provision to penalise the contractor and engineers; and

(d) whether Government propose to have a permanent system of maintenance of the roads?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The term "Taring' is not used on National Highways. The Hon'ble Member, perhaps, desires to know the expenses being incurred on the periodic renwal of National Highways which is approximately Rs. 3.00 to 4.00 lakhs per Km. for a two-lane wide carriageway treated with 20 mm thick Premix Carpet including Seal Coat/Mix Seal surfacing. The durability of roads after periodic renewal varies from 3 to 5 years depending upon various factors like, composition of pavement, intensity of traffic and climatic conditions.

(c) Yes, Sir. The construction work is done as per prescribed specifications and in accordance with State PWD Manuals which *inter-alia* provide for penalty clauses.

(d) There is a system for maintenance of roads with the State PWDs who are doing the work of National Highways for the Government of India on agency basis. However, maintenance is a continuous process and the National Highways are being maintained in traffic-worthy condition within the available resources.

अनु.जातियों/अनु. जनजातियों के राजनयिक

1172. **श्री मूलचन्द मीणा:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के कुल कितने राजदूत/उच्चायुक्त और राज्यपाल हैं; और